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" 'T was an early July morning, fresh and cool the dew-drops hung,  
Bending down the heavy meadow-grass, where scythe-stones gayly rung,  
And sturdy brown-armed mowers laid the wild thick harvest low,  
With such ease and grace of motion that it seemed but play to mow !  
With an even stroke the mowers swung their scythes at easy pace,  
Till at length some boastful whetstone rang a challenge for a race !  
With firm lip and swelling muscles grandly swayed each lithe form then,  
And the merest boys among them stoutly played the part of men.  
Uncle Darling, from the centre — with wide swarth and forward tread —  
One by one cut round the mowers, till he came far out ahead  
And, with rollicking good nature, wiped the sweat from off his face,  
Slyly asking if the 'chap was lost that started that 'ar race ?' " — pp. 128, 129.

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18. — *The History of Usury from the Earliest Period to the Present Time, together with a Brief Statement of General Principles concerning the Conflict of Laws in different States and Countries, and an Examination into the Policy of Laws on Usury and their Effect on Commerce.* By J. B. C. MURRAY. Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott & Co. 1866. 8vo. pp. 158.

THIS is a useful book. Mr. Murray's style is clear, and his volume is furnished with abundant references and a good index. The author traces the history of usury through the various modifications of opinion concerning its morality, and through the various changes of laws of prohibition and permission. He is generally accurate in his statements, and tolerably thorough in his treatment of the subject. He has, however, omitted to notice the fact, that in 1854 a law was passed by Parliament, and received the royal sanction, repealing all former British acts imposing penalties for usury excepting such as relate to pawn-brokers.

In America, California is the only State which has abolished penalties for usury, — an act of 1850 fixing the legal rate of interest at ten per cent, but permitting contracts to be made at any other rate agreed on by the parties. The other States limit the rate by statute.

It is strange that, after the ample discussion the subject has received, and the injury which results to a community from interference with the natural laws that regulate the value of money, as of other things, has been clearly shown, persons not wanting in intelligence should still be found in favor of the maintenance of laws which attempt to fix the rate to be paid for the use of money. Such laws in a commercial community are so constantly violated that they serve to weaken that spirit of obedience to law as law which is one of the safeguards of free political societies.

The argument against such laws may be briefly stated. If money has an inherent value of its own, there is no reason for making an exception in regard to it. The law does not fix the rent a man may ask for his house or lands, or intervene to prevent the payment of the regular market price of a cow or a horse. If money is merely a representative of values, this does not alter the principle. The truth is, that money, like other articles of value, represents an amount of labor. It is like Borden's Concentrated Extract of Beef, of which each ounce represents, and is equivalent to, twenty times its weight of the original muscle. Money is concentrated, portable labor. If there be an open market for labor, there should be an open market for money.

Those who believe in eight-hour laws as consistent with the prosperity of the laboring class, or in laws for the division of lands, or in Jack Cade legislation, have a right to support and defend laws which prevent freedom in the employment of money and thereby hinder the progress of society.

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19.—*Fifteen Days. An Extract from Edward Colvil's Journal.*  
Ticknor and Fields. 1866. 16mo. pp. 299.

THIS book is a work of true feeling and earnest purpose. The central figure, Harry Dudley, passes two weeks in a Southern State under the roof of a newly acquired friend, who recounts the incidents of the time in these passages from his journal. The narrative of these fifteen days of their acquaintance is closed by the tragic death of the noble and beloved Northern youth; and this event, with its accompanying circumstances, is almost the only part of the volume—so strong is the impression on the reader that its characters and their surroundings have been drawn from life—in which the author seems to pass from the delineation of what has been to that of what only might have been. The episode covered by the extracts from Colvil's journal is made a vantage-ground from which to look back and discern all the beauty of a life which the space of a volume affords opportunity to present less remotely in but a single phase. But what seems at first merely a graceful study of character becomes later a keen analysis of the evils wrought to society by a great political wrong, through its effect on individuals, while it takes form at last in a story in which an enthusiastic friendship supplies the place usually held in fiction by the passion of love. The reader who can appreciate the contemplative and analytic spirit in which the book is written, and the womanly and sad tenderness, touched with a sentiment of romance, which finds vent in it, cannot fail to be